Connie Lawson is Indiana's 61<sup>st</sup> Secretary of State. As Indiana's Chief Elections Official, she is focused on ensuring the integrity and security for our state's elections. Since taking office, Secretary Lawson has championed sweeping election reforms and has led the effort to clean Indiana's voter rolls. A tireless advocate for increasing Indiana's financial literacy and protecting Indiana investors, Secretary Lawson educates Hoosiers about smart money decisions and fights for stringent penalties for white collar criminals. Secretary Lawson is directing substantial innovation and leveraging cutting edge technology to improve how businesses interact with government.

As well as advocating for election security, Secretary Lawson is also working to modernize elections through the implementation of vote centers. As a state Senator, Secretary Lawson authored legislation allowing any county in the state to move to the vote center model. As Secretary of State, she has worked to educate voters and elected officials on the cost saving benefits and convenience of the vote center model.

Lawson is committed to putting financial criminals behind bars, and believes that financial literacy is the best way to protect Hoosiers from falling prey to scams. Since taking office, Secretary Lawson has taken on the additional duty of educating not only investors, but educating all Hoosiers on the importance of being financially fit. She travels the state speaking with high school students about credit cards and how they impact future financial wellbeing, chatting with senior citizens about how to protect their retirement nest eggs and reaching out to newlyweds about marrying their finances.

She's also working to modernize the way the state does business by leading an initiative to create a robust, streamlined business development tool that will allow Hoosier entrepreneurs to open for business faster. Secretary Lawson is leading the effort to create a business portal that will ultimately serve as businesses' single point of contact for registration, filing, reporting and making payments across state agencies. It will ease the burden for Hoosier businesses owners when it comes to the information and documentation they must provide various state agencies.

Secretary Lawson lends her substantial leadership experience to help many great organizations. She is a regional vice president of the National Association of Secretaries of State, an honorary governor of the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series, the honorary chairwoman of the Lupus Foundation of Indiana, and a co-chair of the Hendricks County United Way to name just a few.

Prior to serving as Secretary of State, Lawson served in the Indiana Senate for sixteen years, where she accomplished significant legislative success. Respected across the aisle, she quickly earned the admiration of her colleagues and made history in 2006 when she was selected as the first woman to serve as Majority Floor Leader in the Indiana Senate.

Before joining the Indiana Senate, Lawson served as Clerk of the Hendricks County Circuit Court for eight years.

In addition to her public work, she and her husband Jack own Lawson & Company, an auctioneer and real estate company. Lawson is a life-long Hoosier and resident of Hendricks County.